

**Question for written answer E-001802/2016/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Sofia Sakorafa (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Refugee question: Launch of the sanction procedure against Member States which close their borders and apply refugee entry quotas

On 19 February 2016, Austria, in breach of European and international treaties, as well as of the decisions of the European Council of 18-19 February 2016, put in place measures to apply daily quotas for the entry of refugees into Austrian territory. Such measures have also been adopted by Member States such as Slovenia and Croatia, or candidate countries such as FYROM.

Whereas:

- such unilateral decisions do not address the global challenge of the refugee question, but infringe the principles of solidarity, burden sharing and liability, undermine the foundations and the process of the European unification and breed extreme nationalistic elements,
- a unified Europe makes no sense without full respect for shared struggles, shared responsibility and shared commitments,
- such border restrictions are not in keeping with the European acquis, the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol, which impose, among other things, an obligation to examine the status of refugee separately/individually for each applicant,
- having regard to the risk of hundreds of refugees and migrants being trapped in Greece in conditions of an unprecedented humanitarian crisis,

Could the Commission please state:

When does it intend to launch the infringement procedures provided for in the Treaties and impose sanctions on countries which violate European legislation?